CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method comprising:
collecting security data;

providing said security data to a first security station;

selecting at least a second security station;

providing said security data to said at least second security station so that said first security station and said at least second security station have concurrent access to said security data; and

opening a communication link between said first security station and said at least second security station.

2. A method as in claim 1, wherein said providing said security data to said at least second security station comprises transmitting said security data over an electronic network.

3. A method as in claim 1, further comprising using a controller operably connected to said first security station to direct said security data to said at least second security station.

4. A method as in claim 1, wherein said selecting said at least second security station is based on pre-defined criteria.

5. A method as in claim 4, wherein said predefined criteria includes the availability of an operator at said at least second security station.

6. A method as in claim 4, wherein said predefined criteria comprises an expertise of an operator of said at least second security station.

7. A method as in claim 1, wherein providing said communication link between said at least first security station and said at least second security station

comprises providing a graphical overlay on images in said collected security data.

8. A method as in claim 1, wherein said opening said communication link between said first security station and said at least second security station comprises providing a bi-directional audio link between said first security station and said at least second security station.

9. A method as in claim 1, wherein said opening said communication link between said first security station and said at least second security station comprises providing a video link between said first security station and said at least second security station.

10. A method as in claim 1, further comprising controlling security data collection equipment from said at least second security station.

11. A method as in claim 10, wherein controlling security data collection equipment comprises controlling at least one biometric sensor from said at least second security station.

12. A method as in claim 1, wherein said collecting security data comprises collecting security data from a baggage x-ray machine operated by an individual.

13. A method as in claim 1, wherein said collecting security data comprises collecting security data from a biometric sensor operated by an individual.

14. A method as in claim 1, wherein said collecting security data comprises collecting fire detection data from a sensor.

15. A method as in claim 1, wherein said opening a communication link includes opening a communication link over an electronic network.

16. A method as in claim 1, wherein providing said security data to said at least second security station, comprises providing said security data to said at least second security station over an electronic network using an internet protocol.

17. A method as in claim 1, wherein opening a communication link between said first security station and said at least second security station, comprises opening a videoconference link between said first security station and said at least second security station.

18. A method as in claim 17, wherein opening a videoconference link comprises opening a videoconferencing link that is based on an ITU.F323 protocol.

19. A method as in claim 1, wherein selecting at least a second security station, comprises selecting at least a second security station located remotely from said first security station.

20. A method as in claim 1, wherein collecting security data comprises collecting security data with equipment controlled from said first security station.

21 A method as in claim 1, wherein said opening a communication link between said first security station and said at least second security station, comprises opening a bi-directional data transfer link.

22. A method as in claim 1, wherein said collecting security data comprises calculating a height of a feature of a subject from an image of said subject

23. A system comprising:
    a security data collection unit;
    a first viewing unit to display said collected security data;
    a second viewing unit to display said collected security data concurrently
        with said display on said first viewing unit; and
    a controller to selectively direct collected security data to said second
        viewing unit.

24.   A system as in claim 23, wherein said controller selectively directs said collected security data to said second viewing unit upon a signal of a viewer of said first viewing unit.

25.   A system as in claim 23, further comprising a communication link between a security station and at least one supervisor station.

26.   A system as in claim 25, wherein said communication link is over an electronic network.

27.   A system as in claim 26, wherein said electronic network is an internet protocol based network.

28.   A system as in claim 25, wherein said communication link is a videoconference link.

29.   A system as in claim 28, wherein said videoconference link is based on a ITU.H323 protocol.

30.   A system as in claim 23, wherein said first viewing unit is located remotely from said second viewing unit.

31.   A system as in claim 23, wherein said security data collection unit comprises at least a fire detection sensor.

32.   A system as in claim 23, wherein said data security collection unit is a baggage x-ray machine.

33.   A system as in claim 23, further comprising a security data collection unit controller operably connected to said second viewing unit.

34.   A system as in claim 23, wherein said controller is to selectively direct collected security data to said second viewing unit on the basis of pre-defined criteria.

35.   A system as in claim 34, wherein said pre-defined criteria comprises an availability of an operator of said second viewing unit.

36.   A system as in claim 34, wherein said pre-defined criteria comprises an expertise of an operator of said second viewing unit.

37.   A system as in claim 23, comprising a communication unit enabling an operator of said second viewing unit to communicate with a subject of said collected security data.

38.   A system as in claim 23, wherein said collected security data includes data added by an operator of said first viewing unit.

39.   A system as in claim 23, comprising a first security data collection unit controller operably connected to said first viewing unit, and a second security data collection unit operably connected to said second viewing unit.

40.   A system as in claim 39, wherein said first security data collection unit controller is to control a biometric sensor.

41.   A system as in claim 39, wherein said second security data collection unit controller is to control a biometric sensor.

42.   A system as in claim 23, wherein said security data collection unit is a camera operably connected to a processor capable of calculating a height of feature of a subject based on an image of said subject.

43.   A method of determining a height of a part of a body comprising:
             capturing an image of said part of said body using a camera with a lens at a
                 known height and at a known distance from said body,
             computing an angle between a horizontal line from said lens and a line from
                 said lens to said part of said body, and
             calculating a distance between said height of said lens and said height of said
                 part of said body.

44.   A method as in claim 43, wherein said calculating is based on said angle and said known distance of said lens from said body.

45.   A method as in claim 43, wherein capturing an image of said part of said body comprises capturing an image of eyes.

46.   A method as in claim 43, further comprising calculating an estimate of the difference between said height of said part and a top of said body.

47.   A method as in claim 43, further comprising determining said angle based on a number of pixels along a vertical axis between pixels depicting said part in said image and pixels at a level of a straight line of site of said lens in said image.

48.   A method as in claim 43, further comprising adjusting said angle to a tilt measure of said camera.

49.   A system comprising:
        a camera at a known height and at a known distance from a body, said camera
            to capture an image of a part of said body,
        a processor to
                compute an angle between a horizontal line from a lens of said
                    camera and a line between said lens and said part of said body,
                    and
                calculate a distance between said height of said camera and said
                    height of said part of said body.

50.   A system as in claim 49, wherein said processor to calculate a distance between said height of said camera and said height of said part of said body is to calculate based on said angle and said known distance of said camera from said body.

51.   A system as in claim 49, wherein said camera is to capture an image of eyes of said body.

52.   A system as in claim 49, wherein said processor is to calculate an estimate of a difference between said height of said part of said body and a top of said body.

53.   A system as in claim 49, wherein said processor is to determine an angle based on a number of pixels along a vertical axis extending between pixels depicting said part in said image and pixels at a level of a horizontal line from said lens in said image.

54.   A system as in claim 49, wherein said processor is to adjust said angle to account for a tilt measure of said camera.

55.   A method of verifying an individual comprising:
        measuring a height of a feature of said individual; and
        comparing such measured height to a known height of said individual.

56.   A method as in claim 55, wherein said measuring a height of a feature comprises measuring a height of eyes of said individual.

57.   A method as in claim 55, wherein measuring a height of a feature comprises capturing an image of at least said feature with a camera, said camera at a known height and at a known distance from said individual.

58.   A system comprising:
        a camera to capture an image of a feature of an individual; and
        a processor
                to calculate the height of said feature on said individual, and
                to compare said calculated height with a known height of said feature.

59.   A system as in claim 58, wherein said camera is to capture at least an image of eyes of an individual.

60.   A system as in claim 58, wherein said processor is to calculate said height of eyes.